

Today's Sermons

Morning: "Lord, Are There Few Who are Saved?"

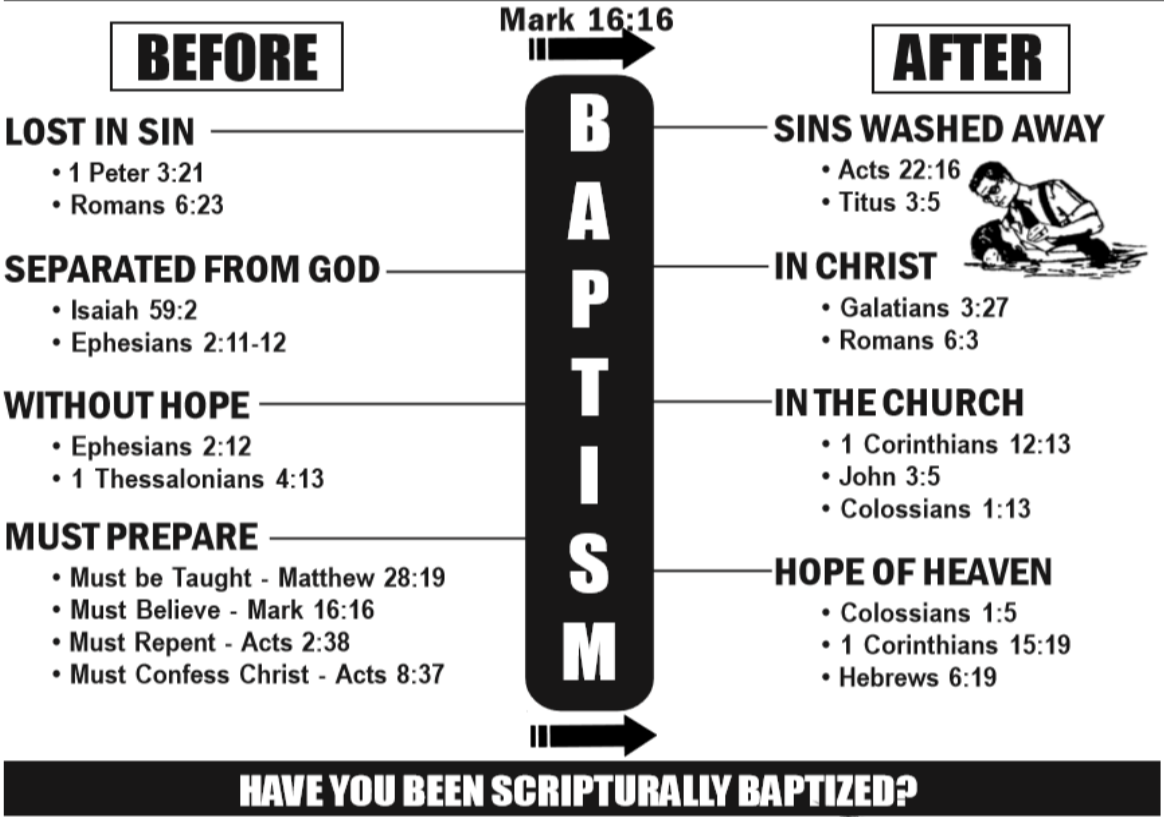
Evening: Question & Answer

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	46
Sunday AM Worship	64
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Offering	\$1608

Baptism - Before and After



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Times of Services:
Sunday
 Bible Study:... 10:00am
 AM Worship:...11:00am
 PM Worship:...6:00pm
 2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday
 Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
 Sunday:.....7:30am
 "Back to the Bible"
 AM 580 WSKS
 93.5 FM

**We Extend A
 Warm & Cordial
 Welcome
 To All Our
 Visitors!**

Naaman
 Jimmy Canup

An Old Testament example serves to teach us some very valuable lessons. The Apostle Paul said in Romans 15:14, "The things which were written aforetime were written for our learning that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."

The account of Naaman is found in 2 Kings 5:1-14. Naaman was a very prominent man of his day. He is recorded as being Captain of the host of the king of Syria. Naaman's problem was that he had leprosy. Through a captured Israelite maid who served Naaman's wife, Naaman learned that he could be cured of his leprosy by the prophet in Samaria.

The first mistake made by Naaman was going to the wrong source. He first went to the king of Israel. Many people in the religious world make the same mistake. They go to the wrong source for the cure to the sin problem in their lives. The correct source can only be found in the Word of God. Preachers who teach the doctrine of "faith only" or "grace only" are not the proper source for one's salvation.

The next segment of the story of Naaman deals with a problem. That being: Naaman became angry. Verse 11 says, "But Naaman was wrath..." And in verse 12, ". . . so he turned and went in a rage." The reason for Naaman's anger stemmed from two sources.

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First, the prophet did not heal Naaman in the way in which he expected. He already had in his mind the manner in which the healing was to take place.

Secondly, the source of healing did not agree with Naaman's idea. He believed that the waters of Damascus' rivers, Abana and Pharpar, were far better than all the waters of Israel.

We should not be too quick to condemn Naaman, for many in the religious world have the same problem. The plan of salvation revealed in the Bible does not harmonize with what they have been taught and with what they believe. Rather than search the Scriptures for truth, some become angry and go away in a rage.

Finally, one of Naaman's servants reasons with him about what the prophet told him to do. After reconsidering, Naaman followed the prophet's instructions and upon completion of doing what he was told to do, Naaman was totally and completely healed.

Is it not necessary at times for someone to reason with us and for us to give reconsideration to a new truth learned in order for us to solve the sin problem in our lives? We are human and prone to the same feelings as was Naaman.

The prophet's instruction was for Naaman to go and dip himself seven times in the Jordan River. There was no healing power in the waters of the Jordan. The power of healing was in following God's instructions through the prophet. To be healed, it was necessary for Naaman to obey fully what he was told to do. Naaman remained leprous until he came up out of the water the seventh time.

Today, you and I are plagued with a disease similar to leprosy but with far more serious consequences. That disease is SIN. God has given to us in his Word a cure for this dreaded disease. The cure for the sin in the life of every individual is obedience to the Gospel. Jesus said in Mark 16:15-16, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved . . ." Like "faith alone," "baptism alone" does not save. Baptism must be preceded by faith in Christ, repentance of sins and a person's confession of faith in Christ. The Book of Acts sets forth very plainly that this is what people did under the preaching of the Apostles.

People the world over may fuss and fume and become angry because of what the Bible teaches one must do in order to be saved. They may be like Naaman and say, "I thought salvation came at the point of "faith only." However, God's Word can neither be changed nor can we devise a man-made plan to save ourselves.

It is our sincere prayer that you will be as honest as Naaman and consider very seriously what the Bible says. Obey God's plan and enjoy cleansing from sin. Your eternal destiny is involved. Please don't become angry, but rather consider these matters very seriously.

FORGIVING A BROTHER

(From "Questions Answered," Lipscomb and Sewell, Kurfees, pg. 260)

QUESTION: If a brother in the church offends us, is it right for us to forgive him whether he comes and ask us to or not, or must we hold it against him until he comes and asks our pardon? Would it not be more Christlike to forgive him and try to love him as much as lieth in us, whether he comes and ask us to or not?

ANSWER: Christ never forgave anyone his sins until he repented of them, nor do we see how anyone can. Christ loved them while yet sinners, was anxious for them to repent, suffered and died to bring them to repentance. We should be like him; should love men, be willing to suffer that they may be brought to repentance, and be kind, gentle, longsuffering to help them to turn; but there is and can be no forgiveness with God or man without repentance; and when a man sincerely repents, he will confess and ask forgiveness of whomsoever he has offended.

QUESTION: Brother Sewell: Does not the Bible teach us to forgive our enemies whether they repent and ask forgiveness or not? I heard a preacher of the gospel say there are no passages in the Bible where anyone ever forgave another unless he repented. I say the Bible teaches us that we must forgive whether they repent and ask our forgiveness or not.

ANSWER: Here is a passage that settles this question: "Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him" (Luke 17:3-4). There are two sides to this question. If one does us wrong, it is our duty to tell him of this wrong, and thus rebuke him for his wrong. Then, if he repents, we must forgive him; but if he will not repent, he is not worthy of forgiveness. But we have no right to hold malice against him, nor in any way take vengeance upon him. But we can follow the rule given in another passage, which is to take one or two with us; and if he refuses to hear the church, then let him be as a heathen or a publican—that is, let the church withdraw from him and leave him with other sinners. That may cause him to repent. If not, the Lord will attend to his case in due time (See Matthew 18:15-17). But no Christian has the right to punish, hold malice against or abuse another. It is a fact that God himself does not forgive sinners that will not repent. All such will be lost at last. Let a Christian in such cases do right in all things, no matter what the backslider or rebellious member may do. But if the wrongdoer will not repent, he will be sure of his deserts at last.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Aug 25 – Song Service
- Sept 1 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Class
- Sept 8 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell